CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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- 1. The Stalin Institute, formerly the Sofia Polytechnic Institute, was founded in 1942 with departments of Civil Engineering, Geodetics, and Architecture. In 1945 1946, departments for Mechanical Engineering, Electricity, and Industrial Chemistry were added. In 1951 the Institute was reorganized into separate Structural and Mechanical Engineering branches. The Structural branch now comprises the Civil Engineering, Geodetics, and Architecture Departments in addition to the three new sections of Mining, Transport (Roads and Railroads), and Hydrailies. The Mechanical Engineering branch now comprises the Mechanical Engineering, Electrical, and Industrial Chemistry Departments in addition to a section for Aircraft Construction.
- 2. From 1942 to 1944 the Institute had approximately 60 students. In 1944 to 1945 the enrollment jumped to 3,300, divided as follows: approximately 2,000 in the Structural Department, approximately 1,000 in the Architecture Department, and approximately 300 in the Geodetics Department. Many of these students left after their first year; the Structural Department alone, for example, lost 500. In 1945 1946, 600 students were transferred from the Structural Department to the three newly-formed departments. Each section now has a yearly enrollment of from 60 to 80 new students. By 1952, approximately 500 students had graduated from the Institute.
- 3. Factory workers who are Communist Party members or members of the Komsomol and who are conspicuously efficient are sent by the State to special courses on secondary school level, known as "Kadrova Gimnaziya". After finishing these courses, they may go to universities with a State grant, but most choose the Polytechnic Institute.
- 4. Before graduation each student must send the Supreme Planning Commission (Planova Komitsiya) his curriculum with a letter of recommendation from the Party Cell of the Polytechnic Institute. The Cadres Department of the Commission then decides what type of employment the graduate is to rective. Party members are usually employed in military enterprises, in the higher civil service, and in important factories. The other graduates are sent to small towns or less important enterprises. No one is allowed to choose his own job.

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- 5. Before 1950, any student who had not served in the Army was called up at the age of 26. Since 1950 university students are not called up; instead they receive their military training under the instruction of high Army officers. Beginning with the first year, six to eight hours per week are set aside for this purpose, and practical training is given during vacations. Women students also receive military instruction, and a girl in the Geography Section is said to have stated that she could handle a field gun. After graduation students are not called up for further service, but they receive commissions as Reserve Officers.
- 6. The Polytechnic Institute has a chemical laboratory, and a laboratory for water tests is being set up, but is not yet being used because of a lack of equipment. Students of the Building Department use the facilities of the Government laboratory (located opposite the Railroad station on Unitsa Georgi Dimitrov) for testing building materials. This laboratory has modern German equipment, including steel cutters, rolling machines, and presses to test concrete blocks.

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